

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 MAR 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomohito OTA et al.

Title: SEAL RING AND SEAL DEVICE

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 03/31/2006

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE PTO 31 MAR 2006

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of document A3 is set forth in the specification.

Document A7 relates to a seal ring and seal device.

Documents A1, A2 and A4-A6 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during a search of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Receipt date: 03/31/2006

10/574216

Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0559
IAP20 Rec'd FCI/PTD 31 MAR 2006

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 31, 2006

By



FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371

Receipt date: 03/31/2006

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /SMc/ (11/06/2008)

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		10/574216	
Date Submitted: March 31, 2006		Application Number	Unassigned
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	03/31/2006
Sheet 1 of 1		First Named Inventor	Tomohito OTA
		Group Art Unit	Unassigned
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
		Attorney Docket Number	040302-0559

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	2003/0189295		OTA ET AL.	10-09-2003	
ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /SMc/ (11/06/2008)						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A2	EP	1 000 975	A2	HITACHI CABLE, LTD.	05-17-2000		
	A3	JP	11-021408	A	NOK CORP.	01-26-1999		Abst.
	A4	JP	2002-161981	A	NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.	06-07-2002		Abst.
	A5	JP	2002-336356	A	HITACHI CABLE, LTD.	11-26-2002		Abst.
	A6	JP	2003-049950	A	HITACHI CABLE, LTD.	02-21-2003		Abst.
	A7	JP	2004-003581	A	NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD., ET AL.	01-08-2004		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ⁶
		ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /SMc/ (11/06/2008)			

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Examiner Signature	/Sanza McClendon/ (11/06/2008)	Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.